

NWS Form E-5 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE <b>MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS</b>		<b>HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA:</b> <b>Pocatello, Idaho</b>
		<b>REPORT FOR:</b> <b>MONTH: August YEAR: 2004</b>
<b>TO:</b> Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2 National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring, Maryland 20910		<b>SIGNATURE:</b> Sherrie Hebert (In Charge of Hydrologic Service Area)
		<b>DATE</b> September 10, 2004
When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"></div> <b>An X in this box indicates that no flooding has occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.</b>		

For the second month in a row, Monsoonal moisture caused severe thunderstorms and flash flooding in Eastern Idaho. Flash floods during the August 17 and 21 storms washed out secondary roads and flooded one basement. No damage estimates have been reported.

Although precipitation for the Pocatello Hydrologic Service Area (HSA) was an average 144% of normal, it only allowed for temporary relief of the drought situation that has plagued Eastern Idaho since 1999. The rain did allow farmers to reduce water consumption sparing some of what remains in the reservoirs for the remainder of the irrigation season.

### **Other Hydrologic Interests**

#### **Precipitation**

August precipitation for the Pocatello HSA was 142% of normal for 41 of 42 reporting stations with climate data, according to Western Region Climate Center data. More than 60% of the Pocatello HSA stations received greater than 100% of normal August precipitation, with seven receiving at least 200%, which are below.

Station Name	Precipitation (inches)	Normal (inches)	Percent of Normal
Grace	3.63	1.03	352.4
Idaho Falls 16 SE	2.51	0.83	302.4
Burley 2 S	1.38	0.46	300.0
Tetonia	2.83	1.06	267.0
Blackfoot FD	1.13	0.46	245.7
Craters Of The Moon	1.77	0.85	208.2
Malad Airport	1.65	0.81	203.7

Grace's 3.63 inches broke the August monthly precip record of 3.36 inches set in 1977. Stanley received no precip tying the 1988 record.

The Pocatello WFO received 0.42 inches, 70% of normal, with the 2004 Water Year total now at 97.2% of normal. Since the drought began in 1999, the total precipitation deficit is 20.58 inches, nearly twice the annual precipitation average of 12.58 inches; an obvious contributor to the region's low reservoirs.

## Reservoirs

Further evidence that the July and August severe storms did little to improve the drought situation, the Upper Snake River reservoir system is at 14% of capacity<sup>1</sup>, down 10% from August 10, 2004.

<b>Reservoir</b>	<b>% Capacity July 31<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>% Capacity August 31<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Percent Change</b>	<b>% of Average<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>% of Last Year<sup>3</sup></b>
American Falls	21	6	-15	14	123
Blackfoot	8	4	-4	7	103
Henry's Lake	73	65	-8	76	90
Island Park	59	32	-27	58	210
Little Wood	45	24	-21	82	108
Mackay	4	1	-3	5	167
Magic	8	7	-1	16	97
Oakley	14	10	-4	29	228
Palisades	39	29	-10	39	150
Ririe	55	45	-10	62	127
Lake Walcott	100 <sup>4</sup>	80 <sup>5</sup>	-20	n/a	n/a

Source: (1) US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), September 10, 2004; (2) NRCS, July 31, 2004; (3) NRCS, August 31, 2004; (4) BOR, August 10, 2004; (5) BOR, September 10, 2004.

## Drought

Although most stations reported above-normal precipitation, the Pocatello HSA has developed such a large precipitation deficit, drought conditions across Eastern Idaho will not be improving this year. Eastern Idaho continues to rank entirely in the D3, "Extreme", and D4, "Exceptional" categories on the US Drought Monitor. Low soil moisture, low SWSI values and above-normal temperature and below-normal precipitation outlooks leave little to no room for relief in the near future.

Current Emergency Drought Declarations for 2004 include 16 of 17 Eastern Idaho counties, Minidoka being the exception, of the 23 declared statewide. The first county declared was Clark County on April 14 and the most recent being Bear Lake County on August 24.

## August 2004 Hydrologic Product Summary

Product	Number Issued
<b>Flash Flood Warning</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Flood Watch for Flash Flooding</b>	<b>6</b>
Flood Warning	0
Flood Watch	0
Urban and/or Small Stream Flood Warning	0
Urban and/or Small Stream Flood Advisory	0
<b>Flood Statement</b>	<b>10</b>
Hydrologic Statement	0
Hydrologic Outlook	0
NOW or Special Weather Statement (with information related to flooding)	0
<b>Local Storm Report related to flooding</b>	<b>8</b>

## August 2004 Hydrologic Product Verification Summary

Product	Number Issued	Verification			Lead Time
		Verified	False Alarm	Missed Event	
FFW	6	1	3	2	1 to 50 minutes
FFA	5 + 1 cxl	2	3	0	~ 5 hours
FLS	10	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Comments</b>					
August 17: Flash flood in Blackrock Canyon burn area, no damages. Missed event.					
August 17: Flash flooding caused 1 basement to flood. Damages unknown. Missed event.					

cc: Melissa Smith, WFO Hydrology Program Manager  
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